

SIGN ON...

THE TRAGIC LOSS OF 19 HOT SHOT FIREFIGHTERS BROUGHT  
BACK MEMORIES OF MY FIRE-FIGHTING EXPERIENCE  
BACK IN THE LATE 1950'S, WHEN I WAS WORKING AT MUTUAL  
PLYWOOD IN FAIRHAVEN. THERE WAS A FIRE ON COMPANY  
TIMBER LAND ABOVE REDWOOD CREEK. THEY CAME THROUGH  
THE MILL, ASKING IF ANY BODY WANTED TO GO UP AND  
HELP OUT. HECK, YES, WAS MY REPLY! THIS OUGHTA' BE  
FUN! OF COURSE, I HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT <sup>FOREST</sup> FIRE-FIGHT-  
ING ENTAILLED AND WAS I IN FOR ~~AN~~ <sup>RIDE</sup> A WAKENING.  
THEY HAVLED US UP IN A VAN - AT NIGHT - AND WE GOT  
OUT AND LOOKED DOWN IN A DEEP GULLY WHERE THE  
FIRE WAS RAGING. FALLEN TREES WERE BEING PICK-  
ED UP AND THROWN SEVERAL FEET IN THE AIR BY THE  
TERRIFIL UP DRAFT CAUSED BY THE HEAT. THAT SIGHT  
SORT OF TOOK AWAY THE "LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!" AT-  
TITUDE I BROUGHT TO THE FIRE. WE WERE DIVIDED  
INTO CREWS AND, UNBERNDOWN TO US, OUR CREW LEADER,  
A GUY WHO THOUGHT HE KNEW IT ALL, WAS TOLD NOT  
TO TAKE US OVER TO THE NEXT RIDGE, UNDER ANY CIR-  
CUMSTANCES. WELL, HE SAW A FIRE IN A TREETOP AND  
TOOK US TO THE NEXT RIDGE, WHERE WE COULDN'T HAVE  
DONE A THING ABOUT THAT TREE FIRE ANYWAY, AND  
WE LOOKED BACK DOWN THE GULLY AND HERE CAME  
THE FIRE, RACING THROUGH THE MANZANITA AND OTHER  
BRUSH. WE THOUGHT WE WERE GONERS! WE TOOK OFF  
RUNNING DOWN THE GULLY, TRYING TO GET AHEAD  
OF THE FIRE, TO CROSS BACK TO THE OTHER RIDGE.  
ONE OF THE GUYS WAS AN OLD GUY, ABOUT 45, AND WE  
LITERALLY CARRIED HIM. WELL, WE MADE IT, OBVIOUSLY.

AND I AM IN NO WAY COMPARING THIS SITUATION TO THE  
DISASTER MENTIONED ABOVE, BUT I KNOW HOW FAST  
THINGS CAN CHANGE! WE ATTENDED EUREKA HIGH'S  
GRADUATION CEREMONY A COUPLE WEEKS AGO, AND I WANT  
TO COMPLIMENT THE ADMINISTRATION AND GROUNDS CREWS  
ON THEIR LAY OUT AND HANDLING OF THE CEREMONY.  
THERE WAS AMPLE DISABLED SEATING AND PARKING AND  
THE CEREMONY ITSELF, FROM THE VALEDICTORIAN AND SA-  
LUTATORIAN SPEECHES, INCLUDING A CLEVER "RAP" SEL-  
ECTION, AND THE PRINCIPAL'S RECOGNITION OF DIFFERENT  
GROUPS WAS GREAT! EARLIER THIS SPRING, I TALKED ABOUT  
MY FRIEND ANDY CALL PLUS JIM AND SUSAN CRESS, AND  
THE KNEELAND SCHOOL REUNION PARTY ON AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>,  
2015 AT 4 P.M., WITH A DINNER AT FIVE-FIFTEEN P.M.  
THIS REUNION IS FOR ALL FORMER AND PRESENT STUD-  
ENTS, FAMILIES, TEACHERS, CUSTODIANS AND ANYONE ELSE  
WITH CONNECTIONS TO KNEELAND SCHOOL. (IMAGINE  
EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE CONNECTIONS AND WANT TO  
COME, I THINK IT WOULD PROBABLY BE OK DINNER  
RESERVATIONS AND RSVP'S NEED TO BE IN BY JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>  
FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE KNEELAND SCHOOL RE-  
UNION ON FACE BOOK OR CALL 599-0519 OR 442-5472  
~~REACT~~. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME AND ANDY AND HIS  
HELPERS HAVE A GREAT BBQ PLANNED. Y'ALL COME!  
KNEELAND SCHOOL IS PERCHED RIGHT ON TOP OF KNEELAND  
MOUNTAIN, JUST EAST OF EUREKA. I BELONG TO FOOD FOR  
PEOPLE'S SOO CLUB, WHERE I SEND A CHECK EACH MONTH. CALL  
445-3166 - 445-3166 TO FIND OUT MORE. SIGN OFF